

*We at the Tennessee Department of Agriculture are pleased to see the 2018 Farm Bill provisions that lift the controlled substance designation of industrial hemp. Below is more information about the change in federal regulation which will offer additional opportunities for Tennessee farmers.*

## **What's in the 2018 Farm Bill?**

- The legislation removes industrial hemp and all of its extracts with not more than 0.3% THC concentration from the list of controlled substances.
- Industrial hemp plants and products will be allowed to cross state lines, providing our growers and processors with new options and increased markets.
- Hemp farmers may now access needed crop insurance and can fully participate in USDA programs for certification and competitive grants.
- The FDA will continue to exercise jurisdiction over the regulation of ingestible and topical hemp products.

## **What does this mean for Tennessee?**

- The USDA will develop rules and regulations regarding industrial hemp as a result of the Farm Bill. After that point, we will make program adjustments to be consistent with federal requirements, if necessary. However, we do not anticipate many immediate, major changes.
- We will continue to work with farmers, legislators, and industry to evaluate the needs for Tennessee's industrial hemp program going forward and to alleviate any unnecessary administrative burdens.
- Tennessee's universities will have fewer restrictions and be able to do more research on this plant as an agricultural commodity.

## **Can I grow hemp without being licensed?**

- The 2018 Farm Bill assigns certain responsibilities to state programs, which include testing and inspecting industrial hemp grown in the state. Federal and state laws require Tennessee industrial hemp growers be licensed through the Tennessee Department of Agriculture's industrial hemp program. It remains illegal to grow hemp without a license.

## **How do I apply to grow hemp?**

- The 2019 Industrial Hemp Grower Application is open until Feb. 15, 2019.
  - The application and more information can be found online at [www.tn.gov/agriculture](http://www.tn.gov/agriculture).